

CHARLES SWEET.

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JUNE 3, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BROWNLOW, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 914.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 914) to correct the military record of Charles Sweet, submit the following report:

The records of the War Department show that Charles Sweet was enrolled August 1, 1862, and mustered in September 13, 1862, at Fort Wayne, Ind., for three years as a member of Company F, Eighty-eighth Indiana Volunteers, and deserted October 15, 1862, and returned to his company under arrest and restored to duty February, 1864, without trial by the commanding general, and finally mustered out on July 15, 1865, with Company C, Thirty eighth Indiana Volunteers, to which organization he had been transferred, and the soldier received an honorable discharge at Louisville, Ky., July 15, 1865.

This bill seeks a correction of the soldier's military record, the charge being that he deserted in 1861 from Company B, First Battalion United States Infantry.

It will be seen that the soldier served faithfully in and was honorably discharged from the Eighty-eighth Indiana Volunteers, after being wounded and performing his service therein.

The evidence shows that the soldier, at the age of 19, while on a visit to Toledo, Ohio (he being then a resident of Indiana), did not enlist in the United States Infantry, from which it is claimed he deserted, but that while he was drinking with and made drunk by some recruiting officers for said Company B, First Battalion United States Infantry, and without his free will and accord they, in some way by their act and by no free will and agency of his, pretended to so enlist him; that he received no pay and no bounty for such pretended enlistment or service.

Under the circumstances of this case, as shown by the war record of the soldier, the testimony to his efficiency as a soldier, his wounding in line of duty, the testimony to his character, and the circumstances of his pretended enlistment, we think it is a meritorious case, and report the bill back to the House with a favorable recommendation, and that it pass with the following amendment:

*Provided, That no pay, bounty, or other emoluments shall become due or payable by virtue of the passage of this act.*

